

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 53-62 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 41 and 45 as follows:

41. (Thrice Amended) A method of identifying an agent which enhances the activity of an [isolated] caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, wherein said caspase is necessary for apoptosis, comprising the steps of: *form of a* *expressed in immature* *thymocytes*
- (a) contacting [the] an isolated caspase or procaspase, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, with a caspase substrate in the presence of the agent; and
 - (b) identifying enhancement of caspase or procaspase activity.
45. (Thrice Amended) A method of enhancing the activity of an [isolated] caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, wherein said caspase is necessary for apoptosis, comprising contacting [said] an isolated caspase or procaspase with an agent that enhances the activity of the caspase or procaspase.

Please add the following new claims:

- 64. The method of Claim 41, wherein the enhanced procaspase or caspase activity results from prolonging the duration of the activity.
- 65. The method of Claim 41, wherein the enhanced procaspase or caspase activity results from increasing the amount of procaspase or caspase.